

Baltersan Castle

SCOTLAND



www.baltersan.com

Ayrshire's Climate

*Sunshine is delicious,
rain is refreshing,
wind braces us up,
snow is exhilarating,
there is really no such thing
as bad weather,
only different kinds of
good weather.*

John Ruskin, 19th c. writer and art critic,
descended from the Kennedies of Baltersan.

Logan Botanical Gardens, Stranraer



Baltersan Castle is Latitude **55° 20'** North, Longitude **4° 42'** West.
The National Grid reference for the UK's Ordnance Survey maps is
NS 283 087
Satellite image taken 19th December, 2004

Scotland lies between 54° to 61° north and 0° to 6° west of Greenwich, the Prime Meridian. Forming the northern part of the island it shares with England and Wales, it has the second longest coastline in Europe.

The climate is unique in Europe; it is extreme oceanic, which is no surprise as the nation is bordered on three sides by sea. This means the weather is variable, generally with cool summers and mild winters. It is influenced by the Gulf Stream or North Atlantic Drift, a warm sea current from the Caribbean, which keeps Scotland's coast ice-free in winter in spite of being on the same latitude as Hudson Bay, Canada. To the astonishment of visitors, palm trees and orchids flourish in wonderful gardens from Logan in the south-west to Poolewe in the far north-west. Scotland is justly famous for its gardens so it is no surprise that arguably the world's greatest plant collector, David Douglas was a Scot.

The mild climate which allows such a great variety of plants and trees to thrive in Scotland also means that there are no extreme variations or exceptional events to worry about like tornadoes, hurricanes, droughts or widespread floods, but the day to day weather can vary enormously and is a source of daily conversation.



Ayrshire's Climate

Baltersan Castle, Scotland – Climate 1971-2000 Averages									
Readings (rounded to nearest whole number) taken at Auchincruive 12 miles (18.5 km) from Baltersan.									
Source: http://www.met-office.gov.uk									
	Temperature				Air Frost Days	Sunshine Hours	Rainfall		
	Maximum		Minimum				Inches	mm	>1mm Days
	°F	°C	°F	°C					
January	45	7	36	2	9	44	4	97	16
February	45	7	36	2	8	66	3	71	13
March	48	9	37	3	5	92	3	80	15
April	52	11	39	4	3	144	2	52	10
May	59	15	43	6	1	198	2	51	10
June	63	17	48	9	0	179	2	57	11
July	64	18	52	11	0	167	3	70	12
August	64	18	52	11	0	153	3	83	13
Sept.	61	16	48	9	0	118	4	102	14
October	55	13	45	7	2	86	5	113	15
Nov.	48	9	39	4	5	57	4	105	16
Dec.	46	8	36	2	8	38	4	104	16
Averages	54	12	43	6					
Totals					41	1342	39	985	161

Sunshine

The hilly terrain of Scotland and its proximity to Atlantic low pressure systems means that the dullest parts of the country are the mountainous areas of the Highlands with an annual average of less than 1,100 hours of sunshine.

Ayrshire, in the south west, benefits from a degree of shelter from northern Ireland and the mountains of the Isle of Arran. This creates a favourable weather pocket which accounts for Prestwick airport never having been closed by fog in its 70-year history.

Daily sunshine figures peak in May and June and are at their lowest in December. Wind and cloud affect this but the main factor is the wide variation in the length of day due to Scotland's latitude. The very short winter days are amply compensated by long summer days with extended twilight (the sun sets at 22:00 hours in June).

Baltersan enjoys an average of 1,342 hours of sunshine a year.



Baltersan Castle (before restoration!) viewed from the north west.

Baltersan Castle

SCOTLAND



www.baltersan.com

Ayrshire's Climate

Rainfall

It is a misconception that the whole of Scotland experiences high rainfall. In fact it varies widely, with a distribution pattern following the topography; from over 3,000 mm per year in the western Highlands to under 800 mm per year near the east coast. Baltersan averages 985 mm annually which is 82% of the national average.

The number of days with more than 1mm of rainfall at Baltersan has an annual average (1971-2000) of 161 days.

Scotland has a low frequency of thunderstorms. Although the number varies widely from year to year, the south of Scotland can expect on average, around nine days of thunder in a year.

New York, about 1,000 miles (1,545km) further south than **Baltersan**, has 21% more annual rainfall on average.

Baltersan Castle from the south west



Photo: Marc Turner
www.pfmpictures.co.uk

Wind

The prevailing wind in Scotland is from the south-west, but the direction often changes markedly from day to day with the passage of weather systems. Statistics are not available for Auchincruive (Baltersan) but, based on the figures for Glasgow Airport (near Paisley) it is probable that Baltersan has an average of 6 days per month of winds above 6 miles (10 km) per hour.

Sailors venturing out from the sheltered estuarine waters of the Firth of Clyde to explore the fabulous Western Isles where the winds and seas are more challenging, have an easy passage via the Crinan Canal in the Mull of Kintyre.

Temperature

Over Scotland the mean annual air temperature at low altitude ranges from about 7°C on Shetland, in the far north, to 9°C on the coasts of Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway in the south-west.

Scotland's winter temperature is influenced by the surface temperature of the surrounding sea, and as the North Sea is cooler than the waters off the west coast, the east is generally slightly cooler in winter than the west coast where Baltersan is about 6 miles (9 km) from the sheltered waters of the Firth of Clyde, a particularly popular sailing area.

In summer, the effect of latitude on the amount of heat received from the sun plays a major role in determining the temperature. For example, the average daily maximum temperature at Baltersan in July is 18 °C compared with 23 °C in London, England.

July and August are normally the warmest months at Baltersan. At least once or twice a year somewhere in Scotland will record a temperature higher than say, Rio de Janeiro, Miami or Rome. The celebrations are usually short-lived due to the variability of Scotland's climate. But on a serious note, Scotland's air quality is excellent and the greatly reduced skin cancer hazards of over exposure to the sun's rays seem like a fair trade-off. The highest air temperature recorded in Scotland was 32.9 C at Greycrook, St Boswells which is 127 miles (204 km) from Baltersan, on 9 August 2003.

Temperatures have risen in every season and in all parts of Scotland since 1961.

Scottish government report, January, 2006



Baltersan Castle

SCOTLAND



www.baltersan.com

Ayrshire's Climate



Snow & Frost

The average number of days with sleet or snow falling in Scotland ranges from around 20 or less near the west coast to over 100 days in the Cairngorm Mountains and some other high peaks. Snow rarely lies on the ground at sea level before November or after April. In most coastal areas of Scotland, such as at Baltersan, snow lies on average for less than 10 days a year. Serious difficulties with roads blocked by snow are, fortunately, not common on low ground, but some higher roads in Scotland are regularly affected each year.

At Baltersan, the average number of days with an air frost is three, with June through September frost-free and the highest number of days (9) in January.

Baltersan viewed from the north west and below, from the south west



BALTERSAN CASTLE IS 6 MILES FROM TURNBERRY GOLF COURSE

Lightsome Hoose Ltd. January, 2006 www.baltersan.com

Baltersan Castle

SCOTLAND



www.baltersan.com

Ayrshire's Climate

Visibility

Baltersan enjoys excellent visibility. Its distance from the industrial areas of central Scotland ensures clean air. Also the considerable reduction in coal fires for domestic heating and the decline in traditional heavy industry have reduced the incidence of smoke haze caused by local air pollution.

However, at certain times of the year, cloud with a very low base can shroud high ground with hill fog especially in the west, when a moisture-laden south-westerly air-stream covers the country. Standing on the 100 metres contour (328 ft. above sea level), Baltersan is very seldom adversely affected by mist or fog.

Air Quality

You do not need statistics to show that Baltersan's air quality is excellent. All you need do is take a few lungfuls of air as soon as you arrive. You will notice the freshness immediately. If you need further tangible proof then the best evidence is the presence of lichens. As you travel around the county you will notice this delicate, colourful vegetation on rocks, stone walls and trees — reassuring!



The silver and golden lichens on Baltersan's walls indicate clean air. This view of the north west corner shows the elegant tapering turret. A full architectural account is available from www.baltersan.com/architecture1.htm

Baltersan Castle (indicated by the red arrow) is a prominent landmark even when viewed from a mile away (1.6 km). Mochrum Loch in the foreground is available for trout fishing. On the ridge beyond the castle is Kildoon, a neolithic, vitrified fort.



BALTERSAN CASTLE IS 6 MILES FROM TURNBERRY GOLF COURSE

Lightsome Hoose Ltd. January, 2006 www.baltersan.com



Ayrshire's Climate

Meaningful comparisons

Average annual statistics (rounded to nearest whole number)

	Latitude	Rainfall		Temperature			
				January		July	
				Inches	MM	°F	°C
Oslo, Norway	59°N	29	737	27	-3	64	18
Stockholm, Sweden	59°N	36	914	27	-3	63	17
Copenhagen, Denmark	56°N	25	635	30	-1	62	17
Amsterdam, Netherlands	55°N	32	813	38	3	62	17
Baltersan, Scotland	55°N	39	985	45	7	64	18
Edmonton, Canada●	54°N	19	477	11	-12	61	16
Berlin, Germany	53°N	23	580	31	-1	72	22
Warsaw, Poland●	52°N	22	559	29	-2	64	18
London, England	52°N	23	584	47	8	73	23

● Some cities such as Warsaw and Edmonton experience significant falls of snow in addition to the rainfall noted above.

Every country has its own weather mythology although global warming is changing things for all of us. If you are as adaptable as our weather is variable, you will have no problems.

Here are a few tips to help you cope with our unpredictable climate.

- ◆ Stay hydrated but no need to spend money on bottled water when our tap water is perfectly safe to drink unless, on the rare occasion it says otherwise.
- ◆ Summer evenings can be chilly, especially if it has been a cloudless day. So bring a cardigan or sweater. It will make an evening stroll in our lovely late twilight, much more comfortable.
- ◆ The weather is changeable so keep waterproofs or an umbrella handy.
- ◆ Scotland may not be the Mediterranean or Arizona but a sunny day with a cooling breeze can be deceptive in terms of the strength of the sun's rays. Take sensible precautions.

Summery Summary

- ⇒ **Oslo** has the same July temperature as **Baltersan** but is considerably colder in January.
- ⇒ **Amsterdam**, on the same latitude as **Baltersan**, is colder in January and July.
- ⇒ **Berlin**, about 200 miles (315km) further south than **Baltersan**, is much colder in January.
- ⇒ **New York**, 1,000 miles (1,545km) further south than **Baltersan** has 21% more rainfall.

Finally, there are more important things in life than weather statistics. Come to Scotland and enjoy yourself! You will receive a warm welcome and our parting wish will be – *Haste ye back!*